



## Glossary From Secrets Of The Gem Trade

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RICHARD WISE GEM COLLECTION

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**achroic** Without color; a colorless gemstone.

**achromatic** As above

**adularescence** A phenomenal effect; e.g., the billowing "moonglow" effect in moonstone.

**akoya pearl** A pearl from the saltwater akoya-gai oyster (*Pinctada martensii*); "Japanese pearl."

**baroque** Any pearl that is not symmetrical, round, or teardrop, oval, or button shaped.

**bead nucleation** The use of a shell bead, usually spherical, implanted in the oyster to stimulate the growth of a cultured pearl, and forming the center of the pearl.

**bellied** Describing a stone purposely cut with extra weight around the girdle, yielding a bulbous outline.

**bicolor** A stone with two distinct, separate hues, common in tourmaline.

**bleed color** The loss of saturation and tone when the viewing environment is shifted between natural and incandescent lighting.

**body color** The color of light transmitted through a gem, as distinguished from key color, the color of refracted light.

**brilliance** The total quantity of light refracted and reflected (from a gemstone) back to the eye of the viewer.

**brilliant cut** Usually refers to a full-cut brilliant of fifty-eight facets, with thirty-two facets and table above the girdle, twenty-four facets and a culet below; used almost universally in cutting larger round diamonds.

**byewater** Off-color; poor color and transparency; see also water.

**"buying the cert"** A purchase based not on an analysis of the beauty of the stone, but on the language of the grading report (certificate).

**cabochon, en cabochon** Gem with a rounded top, without facets. French, "little head."

**carat** Unit of weight in gemstones, one-fifth of a metric gram

**cat's-eye** Phenomenal effect in cabochon cut gemstones resembling the iris of a cat's eye.

**clarity** One of the "four Cs" of quality grading, referring to the presence or absence of inclusions or flaws.

**color** See body color, key color.

**crown** The top half of a faceted gemstone; the portion above the girdle.

**crystal** One of the "four Cs" of gem connoisseurship, coined by author, referring to the transparency and diaphaneity of the gem. See also water and transparency.

**culet** The point at the very bottom of the pavilion of a gemstone.

**cut** The style in which a gem has been fashioned; e.g., emerald cut, brilliant cut. Also refers to a gem's proportions; e.g., well cut.

**daystone** A term coined by the author to describe a gem species or variety or single stone that looks its best in natural daylight.

**diaphaneity** The property of being transparent or translucent.

**dichroic** Of two colors; the characteristic of a transparent substance to divide refracted white light into two distinct rays.

**diffraction** The modification of white light as it breaks up into the color spectrum.

**dispersion** The division of white light into its constituent components as in light through a prism; the rainbow effect.

**dog** A poor quality gemstone in a parcel.

**drusy** Tiny quartz crystals growing on the surface of a gemstone.

**en cameo** Cut in relief. Opposite of cutting intaglio.

**enhancement** Any process applied to a gemstone to improve its color or clarity; also heat enhancement, burning, cooking; see also treatment.

**extinction** The dark gray to black portion of a face-up gemstone that does not refract light; usually caused by off-axis refraction.

**eye** The finest gemstone in a parcel.

**eye-clean, eye-flawless** Describing a gem with no inclusions when viewed with the naked eye (assumes 20/20 vision).

**eye-visible** Inclusions visible to the eye without magnification.

**face up** The view of a gem from the top or crown.

**fancy color** In diamond, any color other than colorless viewed face up; in diamond any color is a fancy color.

**fish-eye** A dark gray to black (achroic) spot at the center of the gem caused by improper proportions from poor cutting; see also extinction.